

Mid-East Prophecy Update – April 30th, 2017

- Before we get to today's prophecy update I need to correct an error on my part concerning "departure," in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.
- My interpretation of this verse was wrong and I have now come to the conclusion that were this the rapture it would be harpazo.
- As such, I would humbly ask for forgiveness for any confusion this may have caused as it relates to the pre-tribulation rapture.

- There's something else I would like to mention and it has to do with my qualifications and credentials as a prophecy teacher.
- I have no formal education in that, I've never been to college or seminary, and I've never presented myself as a Greek scholar.
- I'm actually uncomfortable being called a prophecy expert because I only see myself as a donkey that God can speak through.

Lastly, this is probably a good time to mention once again the importance of being like the Berean Jews who we're told in Acts 17:11, were of more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, by virtue of how they received the Word of God with an eager readiness, so much so, that they would actually search the Scriptures on a daily basis to find out whether or not what they heard said was true or not.

- For today's prophecy update I want to look at the seriousness of what some suggest is a world now on the brink of all out war.
- It seems that the drumbeat of wars and threats of wars are increasing in both their tempo and volume, with each passing day.
- In preparing today's update, I was struck with the prevalent use of words and phrases like, "imminent," and "nearing an end."

- While I'm keenly aware that words like this have always been used in the past, I would argue that today, it's unprecedented.
- By unprecedented I mean that never before in human history has there been the propensity for that which seems to be coming.
- Namely, that of the use of weapons of mass destruction that could in effect kill a third of the population of the entire planet.

Revelation 9:13–16 (NKJV) — 13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Luke 21:28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

- I believe that Jesus speaking about those things that will ultimately be fulfilled in the seven year tribulation beginning to happen.
- In other words, when, not if they begin to happen prior to the 7-year tribulation then you'll know your redemption draws near.
- The question becomes one of whether or not these things are beginning to happen, and I would like to argue that yes they are.

I'll begin with this Fox News report from Thursday where they quote a senior U.S. Navy Officer warning that the North Korean crisis is the worst he's ever seen. He told lawmakers that the North Korean crisis is the worst he's seen -- testifying that it's only a matter of time before Kim Jong Un has the capability of launching a nuclear warhead toward the United States. He went on to say that "Kim Jong Un is making progress and all nations need to take this seriously because their missiles point in all directions... If left unchecked, they will match the capability of his hostile rhetoric. He then underscored the importance of what he referred to as a "shift" in Kim Jong Un's rhetoric, after threatening nations like Australia and the U.S. by name this week. "His rhetoric is going in one direction and his capabilities are approaching the lines of his rhetoric..." He said, "Where those lines cross, I believe we are at an inflection point and we wake up to a new world."

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/04/27/north-korean-crisis-worst-ve-seen-top-navy-officer-warns.html>

That was Thursday, then on Friday, Ynet News published a report in which they quote Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister as saying that any use of force against Pyongyang would be "completely unacceptable," adding that, "The combative rhetoric coupled with reckless muscle-flexing has led to a situation where the whole world seriously is now wondering whether there's going to be a war or not... One ill thought out or misinterpreted step could lead to the most frightening and lamentable consequences."

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4955240,00.html>

According to Ynet News Russia isn't only warning that any use of force against North Korea would be unacceptable, they're also condemning Israel for launching air strikes on Syria. Quoting the report, Russia has denounced what it called "aggression" against Syria in the wake of an apparent Israeli missile attack on a Syrian military installation near Damascus International Airport. ...Israel appears to be striking at military convoys and installations in Syria at a quickening pace, maintaining it has the right to prevent the transfer of weapons to Hezbollah, a Lebanese militant group that fights alongside Syrian government forces.

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4954863,00.html>

I suppose this analysis published in Haaretz should come as no surprise, however, what may come as a surprise is Israel's policy of ambiguity is now "nearing an end." "On the strategic level, Israel has a problem: Russia's military success in the war means the salvation of the Assad regime and a gain for Assad's other allies, Iran and Hezbollah. Should Russia decide to promote the interests of these other members of Assad's alliance, it could come at Israel's expense. In his talks in Russia, Lieberman emphasized the new red line drawn by Israel: no Iranian or Hezbollah military presence ...on the Golan Heights. ...there have been initial reports of the arrival of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, Hezbollah and related ...militias in the border area, mainly in the northern Golan Heights. ...Should it decide to take action to enforce its stance ... Israel will have to weigh the possibility not only of heightened friction with Iran, but also of a shift in relations with Moscow. <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.786074>

Speaking of heightened friction and a shift in relations, according to The Times of Israel, an Israeli newspaper is reporting that Trump will recognize the entirety of Jerusalem as Israel's capital during his upcoming in late May. What's interesting is since Israel declared independence in 1948, US policy has been not to recognize any party as sovereign in any part of Jerusalem. If this isn't unprecedented enough, No US president has visited Israel in the first months of his term. As you might imagine, many are asking whether or not Trump will make good on his campaign promise to relocate the US Embassy to Jerusalem while he's there, however, according to the Times, an unsourced front page report is saying that he will not announce an embassy move during his visit. <http://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-to-recognize-entire-jerusalem-as-israels-capital-during-trip-report/>

That was until yesterday, when The Times of Israel published a subsequent report about how Trump is now refusing to confirm reports that he would announce the transfer of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem during a visit to Israel next month. He is however hinting that Thursday that he may clarify the issue at that time. Asked about the relocation by Reuters, Trump demurred. "Ask me in a month on that," he told the news agency. Trump also appeared to express frustration that Israelis and Palestinians continued to not have a peace deal, saying there was no reason for the conflict to persist. "I want to see peace with Israel and the Palestinians," he said. "There is no reason there's not peace between Israel and the Palestinians — none whatsoever." Trump has said several times that he would work to broker an agreement to end the decades-old conflict, citing his business acumen and saying peace would be "the ultimate deal." <http://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-ask-me-in-month-about-moving-embassy-to-jerusalem/>

- Here's the bottom line in closing, everything that is now beginning to come to pass was revealed to us prior in the Word of God.

John 13:19 (NKJV) — 19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.

John 14:29 (NKJV) — 29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

- The question becomes "do you believe that Jesus Christ is Lord?" This is the most important question we can ever answer.
- I'll explain how, by sharing with you what one has called the ABC's of Salvation. The A is for Admit. Admit that you're a sinner.
- The B is for Believe. Believe in your heart that Jesus is Lord. The C is for Call. Call upon the name of the Lord; you'll be saved.